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36th SESSION UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Resolution on Missing and Disappeared Persons
Adopted by Consensus, February 29, 1980The Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind General Assembly Resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978, which requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of missing or disappeared persons with a view to making appropriate recommendations,

Taking into account Resolution 1979/38 of the Economic and Social Council, which requested the Commission to consider the question as a matter of priority, and Resolution 5B (XXXII) of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Convinced of the need to take appropriate action, in consultation with the governments concerned, to promote the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 33/173 and other United Nations resolutions relevant to the plight of missing and disappeared persons,

1. Decides to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine the questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons;

2. Requests the Chairman of the Commission to appoint the members of the group;

3. Decides that the working group, in carrying out its mandate, shall seek and receive information from governments, intergovernmental organizations, humanitarian organizations and other reliable sources;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to appeal to all governments to cooperate with and assist the working group in the performance of its tasks and to furnish all information required;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide the working group with all necessary assistance, in particular staff and resources they require in order to perform their functions in an effective and expeditious manner;

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6. Invites the working group, in establishing its working methods, to bear in mind the need to be able to respond effectively to information that comes before it and to carry out its work with discretion;

7. Requests the working group to submit to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session a report on its activities, together with its conclusions and recommendations;

8. Further requests the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue studying the most effective means for eliminating enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons with a view to making general recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights at its 37th session;

9. Decides to consider this question again at its thirty-seventh session under a sub-item entitled "Question of Missing and Disappeared Persons."